

[By Neal Charnoff](#)

(Host) Vermont's congressional delegation has secured a major federal grant for community rebuilding following Tropical Storm Irene.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is releasing \$21.6 million to the state from a newly enacted appropriations bill.

Jen Hollar is the Deputy Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development.

She says the grant will go a long way toward helping the state's long-term recovery efforts.

(Hollar) "The beauty of these funds is that it is flexible, it can be used for housing, businesses and communities all to rebuild following a disaster."

(Host) Hollar says a large portion of the grant will be dedicated to creating affordable housing for people affected by the flooding.

(Hollar) "It's primarily intended to benefit low and moderate income Vermonters, and as we know they were among the hardest hit by the storm."

(Host) Vermont is one of eight states receiving grants from an annual funding bill recently signed by President Obama.